

IN THE TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the title to read:

HIERARCHICAL STATIC SHADOW DETECTION METHOD

~~DETECTIONS FOR COLOR AERIAL IMAGES~~

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph from Page 5, line 24 to page 6, line 17 as follows:

To overcome the above-identified second and third problems, the inventive method provides a two-level shadow detection algorithm. At the pixel level, the image is modeled as a reliable lattice (RL). The lattice reliability is defined by both node reliabilities and link reliabilities. The inventors have determined that shadow detection can be achieved by finding the RL having the maximum lattice reliability. At the region level, application oriented procedures which remove most possible false detected regions are applied. Since shadow detection can be considered as a special case of image segmentation, the relationship between the RL model and an MRF model such as that taught by Charles A. Bournan, "Markov Random Fields and Stochastic Image Models", Tutorial presented at ICIP 1995 is also developed. MRF models are ~~known~~ known to be one of the most popular models for image segmentation. For this reason, ~~there~~ their use in shadow detection is important and also allows for possibility of extending the methods of the present invention into more general image segmentation areas. The relationships between RLs and MRFs are developed hereinbelow.